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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
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| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/786,278 | CHRISOP ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Marcus T. Riley | 2625 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/24/04.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 2/24/04 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date attached.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to the applicant's remarks received on May 29, 2007. Claims 1-29 remain pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims 1-29, filed on May 29, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding amended claim 1; claim 1 has been amended to include the new limitation (“...the method comprising: scanning a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job...”). Nomura et al. (US 7,173,724 B2, hereinafter Nomura ‘724) discloses scanning a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job (“*The image forming system 1 is provided with a printer 2..., a scanner 3, an automatic document feeder 4... The scanner 3, as well as the automatic document feeder 4 placed on a top of the scanner 3, is supported by system racks 7, so as to have a location above the printer 2...*” column 6, lines 17-25). See also Figure 2 and (“*The scanner 3 has an auto reading mode and manual reading mode. In the auto reading mode, sheet-shaped documents are automatically fed by the automatic document feeder 4, and scanned sheet-by-sheet to be exposed, so as to read document images.*” column 8, lines 26-30).

Regarding amended claim 12; claim 12 has been amended to include the new limitation (“...said scanner, to produce a scan job...”). Nomura ‘724 discloses a scanner to produce a scan job (“*The image forming system 1 is provided with a printer 2..., a scanner 3, an automatic document feeder 4... The scanner 3, as well as the automatic document feeder 4 placed on a top*”

of the scanner 3, is supported by system racks 7, so as to have a location above the printer 2... " column 6, lines 17-25). See also Figure 2 and ("The scanner 3 has an auto reading mode and manual reading mode. In the auto reading mode, sheet-shaped documents are automatically fed by the automatic document feeder 4, and scanned sheet-by-sheet to be exposed, so as to read document images." column 8, lines 26-30).

Regarding amended claim 21; claim 21 has been amended to include the new limitation ("A computer-readable medium configured to store a set of instructions executable to: scan a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job;""). Nomura '724 discloses ("both display contents of the printer 2 and the scanner 3 are stored in a VRAM (Video Random Access Memory) (display information storing means) 223a of the printer controller 223." column 10, lines 45-48). See also ("The sheets P are stored in such a manner that the a plurality of the sheets P are piled up. Then, while the carriage 1021 moves in both of or either of the directions indicated by the arrows C and D, a driving signal, which is in accordance with the image data, is supplied from the image processing section to the ink head, so that the ink head discharges an ink onto a surface of the sheets P so as to form the image." column 30, lines 13-19).

Claim Rejections

(Claims 21-29 rejected under 35 USC § 101 are withdrawn in light of the applicant's amendments.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Lopez et al. US 7,142,318 B2 (hereinafter, Lopez '318) in combination with Nomura '724.

Regarding claim 1; Lopez '318 discloses method for proofing a scan the method comprising: printing a proof sheet by the scanner ("*The marked proof sheet is scanned so as to determine marked selection areas, and the image files associated with the marked selection areas are printed.*" column 2, lines 37-39); proof sheet containing a selected sub-set of the information contained within the scan job ("*The printing system preferably includes subsystems which obtain certain image files associated with a specified web page, print a proof sheet associated with those images, allow the user to select which of the images are to be printed, and print these user-selected image files...*" column 3, lines 44-49); inspecting said proof sheet ("*...there is illustrated a printing system constructed in accordance with the present invention which enables digital images associated with Internet web pages to be previewed, selected, and printed without the need for a computer attached to the printer...*" column 3, lines 40-44) electing, based on the result of inspecting, whether to accept the scan job or not ("*After the user chooses selected ones of the qualified image files 2 for printing by marking the user-designation areas 54 associated with the indicia 52 of the selected image files 2, the user places the marked proof sheet 22 on a scan platen 122 where it is optically scanned by a scanner subsystem 86. The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 detects and interprets the markings made by the user in the user designation areas 54 (also known as image selection areas 54) to identify*

the user-selected image files 2, and associates each of the individual user designation areas 54 with a corresponding image file URL 73 via the identity marker 60. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205. When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file." column 5, lines 8-23); and where the result of electing is to accept the scan job, sending the scan job ("When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file." column 5, lines 24-27).

Lopez '318 does not expressly disclose scanning a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job.

Nomura '724 discloses scanning a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job. ("The image forming system 1 is provided with a printer 2..., a scanner 3, an automatic document feeder 4... The scanner 3, as well as the automatic document feeder 4 placed on a top of the scanner 3, is supported by system racks 7, so as to have a location above the printer 2..." column 6, lines 17-25). See also Figure 2 and ("The scanner 3 has an auto reading mode and manual reading mode. In the auto reading mode, sheet-shaped documents are automatically fed by the automatic document feeder 4, and scanned sheet-by-sheet to be exposed, so as to read document images." column 8, lines 26-30).

They are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of a "Image forming Systems" ("The present invention relates to an image forming system provided, in combination, with (a) a scanner for optically reading a document image and (b) a printer for forming an image on a recording medium..." Nomura '724 at column 1, lines 7-10).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the scanner unit as taught by Lopez '318 to scan a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job as taught by Nomura '724.

The motivation for doing so would have been because it would provide a more user-friendly image forming system. ("the scanner is so sufficiently used that the system is more easily operated, thereby providing a more user-friendly image forming system." Nomura '724 at column 3, lines 57-60):

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Lopez '318 with Nomura '724 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2; Lopez '318 discloses rendering the entire scan job after sending ("The image printing subsystem 84 renders each image file 2 according to the printing instructions, and sends the print content to the printer subsystem 80 for generating the image prints 26." column 5, lines 31-35);

Regarding claim 3; Lopez '318 discloses the proof sheet includes one or more thumbnail images representing one or more respective pages of the scan job ("...FIG. 3A is a detailed plan view of an exemplary combination proof sheet and order form 22 that may be utilized with the system 10 of FIG. 1A to select one or more images from an array of thumbnail images such as 52 (FIG. 3C) for final printing." column 5, lines 63-67);

Regarding claim 4; Lopez '318 discloses the proof sheet includes descriptive information describing the scan job ("The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 detects and interprets the markings made by the user in the user designation areas 54 (also known as image selection areas 54) to identify the user-selected image files 2, and associates each of the individual user designation areas 54 with a corresponding image file URL 73 via the identity marker 60." column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 5; Lopez '318 discloses sending includes forwarding the scan job to a network ("The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205." column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 6; Lopez '318 discloses sending includes forwarding the scan job to a network ("The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205." column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 7; Lopez '318 discloses the network includes at least one of the following: a remote computer, a remote computer peripheral, and a hand-held device ("Some of the digital image files 4 may be digital photographs taken by a digital camera 12. Digital image

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files 4 may be transferred from the camera 12 to the computing apparatus 28 over a data link 20... " column 4, lines 12-15);

Regarding claim 8; Lopez '318 discloses where the step of electing is not to accept the scan job, the method further comprising the step of storing the scan job in a memory ("...*subsystems 70,74,78,80,82,82',84,86 are preferably implemented in firmware or software stored on a program storage medium such as a ROM, CD-ROM, or the like...*" column 5, lines 53-56"); receiving user instruction ("*When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file.*" column 5, lines 24-27); and modifying the stored scan job according to user instruction prior to the step of sending ("*The user can fill in one or more bubbles 56 in the user designation area B adjacent a particular thumbnail image I to "order" the desired number and size of final prints of that digitally stored image.*" column 6, lines 38-41);

Regarding claim 9; Lopez '318 discloses the proof sheet includes one or more thumbnail images representing one or more respective pages of the scan job ("...*FIG. 3A is a detailed plan view of an exemplary combination proof sheet and order form 22 that may be utilized with the system 10 of FIG. 1A to select one or more images from an array of thumbnail images such as 52 (FIG. 3C) for final printing.*" column 5, lines 63-67);

Regarding claim 10; Lopez '318 discloses sending includes forwarding the scan job to a network ("*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file*

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URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205.” column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 11; Lopez ‘318 discloses rendering the entire scan job after forwarding (“*The image printing subsystem 84 renders each image file 2 according to the printing instructions, and sends the print content to the printer subsystem 80 for generating the image prints 26.*” column 5, lines 31-35).

5. **Claims 12-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Lopez et ‘318 in combination with Nomura ‘724.

Regarding claim 12; Lopez ‘318 discloses an apparatus for proofing a scan job, comprising: a scanner adapted for printing (“*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 detects and interprets the markings made by the user in the user designation areas 54 (also known as image selection areas 54) to identify the user-selected image files 2, and associates each of the individual user designation areas 54 with a corresponding image file URL 73 via the identity marker 60. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205. When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file.*” column 5, lines 12-27); and a processing unit adapted to (a) cause the scanner, where a plurality of pages have been scanned using the scanner, to print a proof sheet containing a selected sub-set of the information contained within the scan job (“*The image proofing subsystem 78 then forms the content of a*

user-markable proof sheet 22 for the qualified image files 3... the proof sheet 22 includes an indicia 52 (such as a thumbnail image and/or a filename) for each qualified image file 3, and a user-designation area 54 associated with each indicia 52... the image proofing subsystem 78 sends the proof sheet content to a printer subsystem 80 which produces the proof sheet 22.” beginning at columns 4, line 63 and ending at column 5, line7); (b) provide for user election whether to accept the scan job or not (“After the user chooses selected ones of the qualified image files 2 for printing by marking the user-designation areas 54 associated with the indicia 52 of the selected image files 2, the user places the marked proof sheet 22 on a scan platen 122 where it is optically scanned by a scanner subsystem 86. The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 detects and interprets the markings made by the user in the user designation areas 54 (also known as image selection areas 54) to identify the user-selected image files 2, and associates each of the individual user designation areas 54 with a corresponding image file URL 73 via the identity marker 60. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205. When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file.” column 5, lines 8-23); and (c) where the user elects to accept the scan job, thereafter send the scan job (“When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file.” column 5, lines 24-27).

Lopez '318 does not expressly disclose a scanner to produce a scan job.

Nomura '724 discloses a scanner to produce a scan job ("The image forming system 1 is provided with a printer 2..., a scanner 3, an automatic document feeder 4... The scanner 3, as well as the automatic document feeder 4 placed on a top of the scanner 3, is supported by system racks 7, so as to have a location above the printer 2..." column 6, lines 17-25). See also Figure 2 and ("The scanner 3 has an auto reading mode and manual reading mode. In the auto reading mode, sheet-shaped documents are automatically fed by the automatic document feeder 4, and scanned sheet-by-sheet to be exposed, so as to read document images." column 8, lines 26-30).

They are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of a "Image forming Systems" ("The present invention relates to an image forming system provided, in combination, with (a) a scanner for optically reading a document image and (b) a printer for forming an image on a recording medium..." Nomura '724 at column 1, lines 7-10).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the scanner unit as taught by Lopez '318 to produce a scan job as taught by Nomura '724.

The motivation for doing so would have been because it would provide a more user-friendly image forming system. ("the scanner is so sufficiently used that the system is more easily operated, thereby providing a more user-friendly image forming system." Nomura '724 at column 3, lines 57-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Lopez '318 with Nomura '724 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 12.

Regarding claim 13; Lopez '318 discloses the proof sheet includes one or more thumbnail images representing one or more respective pages of the scan job ("...*FIG. 3A is a detailed plan view of an exemplary combination proof sheet and order form 22 that may be utilized with the system 10 of FIG. 1A to select one or more images from an array of thumbnail images such as 52 (FIG. 3C) for final printing.*" column 5, lines 63-67);

Regarding claim 14; Lopez '318 discloses the proof sheet includes descriptive information describing the scan job ("*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 detects and interprets the markings made by the user in the user designation areas 54 (also known as image selection areas 54) to identify the user-selected image files 2, and associates each of the individual user designation areas 54 with a corresponding image file URL 73 via the identity marker 60.*" column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 15; Lopez '318 discloses the processing unit is adapted to send the scan job at least by forwarding the scan job to a network ("*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205.*" column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 16; Lopez '318 discloses the processing unit is adapted to send the scan job at least by forwarding the scan job to a network ("*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet*

analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205.” column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 17; Lopez ‘318 discloses the network includes at least one of the following: a remote computer, a remote computer peripheral, and a hand-held device (“*Some of the digital image files 4 may be digital photographs taken by a digital camera 12. Digital image files 4 may be transferred from the camera 12 to the computing apparatus 28 over a data link 20...*” column 4, lines 12-15);

Regarding claim 18; Lopez ‘318 discloses a memory where the user elects not to accept the scan job and a processing unit adapted to store the scan job in the memory (“*...subsystems 70,74,78,80,82,82',84,86 are preferably implemented in firmware or software stored on a program storage medium such as a ROM, CD-ROM, or the like...*” column 5, lines 53-56”); receiving user instruction (“*When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file.*” column 5, lines 24-27); and modifying the stored scan job according to user instruction prior to the step of sending (“*The user can fill in one or more bubbles 56 in the user designation area B adjacent a particular thumbnail image I to “order” the desired number and size of final prints of that digitally stored image.*” column 6, lines 38-41);

Regarding claim 19; Lopez ‘318 discloses a proof sheet including one or more thumbnail images representing one or more respective pages of the scan job (“*...FIG. 3A is a detailed plan view of an exemplary combination proof sheet and order form 22 that may be*

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utilized with the system 10 of FIG. 1A to select one or more images from an array of thumbnail images such as 52 (FIG. 3C) for final printing .” column 5, lines 63-67);

Regarding claim 20; Lopez ‘318 discloses a processing unit is adapted to send the scan job at least by forwarding the scan job to a network (“*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205.*” column 5, lines 13-23).

6. **Claims 21-29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Lopez et ‘318 in combination with Nomura ‘724.

Regarding claim 21; Lopez ‘318 discloses a computer-readable medium configured to store a set of instructions executable to: printing a proof sheet by the scanner (“*The marked proof sheet is scanned so as to determine marked selection areas, and the image files associated with the marked selection areas are printed.*” column 2, lines 37-39); proof sheet containing a selected sub-set of the information contained within the scan job (“*The image proofing subsystem 78 then forms the content of a user-markable proof sheet 22 for the qualified image files 3... the proof sheet 22 includes an indicia 52 (such as a thumbnail image and/or a filename) for each qualified image file 3, and a user-designation area 54 associated with each indicia 52... the image proofing subsystem 78 sends the proof sheet content to a printer subsystem 80 which produces the proof sheet 22.*” beginning at columns 4, line 63 and ending at column 5, line7); where a user inspects said proof sheet (“*...there is illustrated a printing system constructed in accordance with the present invention which enables digital images associated with Internet web pages to be previewed, selected, and printed without the need for a*

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computer attached to the printer..." column 3, lines 40-44), receiving user input indicating whether the user elects to accept the scan job or not ("After the user chooses selected ones of the qualified image files 2 for printing by marking the user-designation areas 54 associated with the indicia 52 of the selected image files 2, the user places the marked proof sheet 22 on a scan platen 122 where it is optically scanned by a scanner subsystem 86. The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 detects and interprets the markings made by the user in the user designation areas 54 (also known as image selection areas 54) to identify the user-selected image files 2, and associates each of the individual user designation areas 54 with a corresponding image file URL 73 via the identity marker 60. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205. When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file." column 5, lines 8-23); the user elects to accept the scan job a then send the scan job ("When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file." column 5, lines 24-27).

Lopez '318 does not expressly disclose a computer-readable medium configured to store a set of instructions executable to scan a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job.

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Nomura '724 discloses a computer-readable medium configured to store a set of instructions executable to: scan a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job ("both display contents of the printer 2 and the scanner 3 are stored in a VRAM (Video Random Access Memory) (display information storing means) 223a of the printer controller 223." column 10, lines 45-48). See also ("The sheets P are stored in such a manner that the a plurality of the sheets P are piled up. Then, while the carriage 1021 moves in both of or either of the directions indicated by the arrows C and D, a driving signal, which is in accordance with the image data, is supplied from the image processing section to the ink head, so that the ink head discharges an ink onto a surface of the sheets P so as to form the image." column 30, lines 13-19).

They are combinable because they are from same field of endeavor of a "Image forming Systems" ("The present invention relates to an image forming system provided, in combination, with (a) a scanner for optically reading a document image and (b) a printer for forming an image on a recording medium..." Nomura '724 at column 1, lines 7-10).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the scanner unit as taught by Lopez '318 to have computer-readable medium configured to store a set of instructions executable to: scan a plurality of pages using a scanner adapted for printing to produce a scan job as taught by Nomura '724.

The motivation for doing so would have been because it would provide a more user-friendly image forming system. ("the scanner is so sufficiently used that the system is more easily operated, thereby providing a more user-friendly image forming system." Nomura '724 at column 3, lines 57-60).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Lopez '318 with Nomura '724 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 21.

Regarding claim 22; Lopez '318 discloses a proof sheet including one or more thumbnail images representing one or more respective pages of the scan job ("...*FIG. 3A is a detailed plan view of an exemplary combination proof sheet and order form 22 that may be utilized with the system 10 of FIG. 1A to select one or more images from an array of thumbnail images such as 52 (FIG. 3C) for final printing.*" column 5, lines 63-67);

Regarding claim 23; Lopez '318 discloses a proof sheet including descriptive information describing the scan job ("*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82. The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 detects and interprets the markings made by the user in the user designation areas 54 (also known as image selection areas 54) to identify the user-selected image files 2, and associates each of the individual user designation areas 54 with a corresponding image file URL 73 via the identity marker 60.*" column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 24; Lopez '318 discloses where sending includes forwarding the scan job to a network ("*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205.*" column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 25; Lopez '318 discloses where sending includes forwarding the scan job to a network. ("*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a*

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proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205.” column 5, lines 13-23);

Regarding claim 26; Lopez ‘318 discloses a network that includes at least one of the following: a remote computer, a remote computer peripheral, and a hand-held device (“*Some of the digital image files 4 may be digital photographs taken by a digital camera 12. Digital image files 4 may be transferred from the camera 12 to the computing apparatus 28 over a data link 20...*” column 4, lines 12-15);

Regarding claim 27; Lopez ‘318 discloses where the user elects not to accept the scan job the method further comprising the step of storing the scan job in a memory (“*...subsystems 70,74,78,80,82,82',84,86 are preferably implemented in firmware or software stored on a program storage medium such as a ROM, CD-ROM, or the like...*” column 5, lines 53-56”); receiving user instruction (“*When the image files 2 have been retrieved, the proof sheet analyzer 82 sends them to an image printing subsystem 84 along with the printing instructions marked by the user in the user-designation area 54 for each image file.*” column 5, lines 24-27); and modifying the stored scan job according to user instruction prior to the step of sending (“*The user can fill in one or more bubbles 56 in the user designation area B adjacent a particular thumbnail image I to "order" the desired number and size of final prints of that digitally stored image.*” column 6, lines 38-41);

Regarding claim 28; Lopez ‘318 disclose a proof sheet that includes one or more thumbnail images representing one or more respective pages of the scan job (“*...FIG. 3A is a*

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detailed plan view of an exemplary combination proof sheet and order form 22 that may be utilized with the system 10 of FIG. 1A to select one or more images from an array of thumbnail images such as 52 (FIG. 3C) for final printing.” column 5, lines 63-67);

Regarding claim 29; Lopez ‘318 discloses where sending includes forwarding the scan job to a network (“*The scanned image is communicated from the scanner subsystem 86 to a proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82... The proof sheet analyzer subsystem 82 then provides the image file URLs 73 to the internet access subsystem 70 in order to obtain the user-selected image files 2 from the network 205.*” column 5, lines 13-23).

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

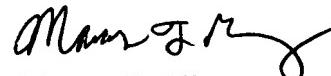
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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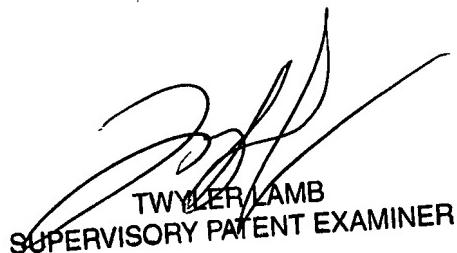
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus T. Riley whose telephone number is 571-270-1581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30-5:00, est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-8528.



Marcus T. Riley
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2625



TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER